

REMARKS

Please reconsider this application in view of the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully considering this application.

Disposition of the Claims

Claims 1-7 are pending in this application. Claims 1 and 4 are independent. The remaining claims depend, directly or indirectly, from the independent claims.

Rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0135608 (“Hamada”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,501,902 (“Wang”). For the following reasons, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

Selected embodiments of the present invention relate to “a disk reproduction apparatus and disk reproduction method that can administer information to facilitate the process of reproducing data from a disk in a manner the user desires in a disk reproduction apparatus.” See paragraph [0002] of the published specification. Advantageously, the claimed invention executes a different process depending upon whether a disk is being reproduced or not at the point in time when a marker key is operated during disk reproduction in a disk reproduction apparatus. In the case where the marker key is operated when a disk is being reproduced, the *current address* on the disk that is being reproduced at that point in time *is registered as a bookmark*. In the case where the marker key is operated when a disk is not currently being reproduced, the *still picture at the address registered as a bookmark* in association with the relevant key *is displayed as a thumbnail image*.

The user can then select a number in the marker number display region to initiate playback of a disk starting from the address corresponding to the selected marker.

Accordingly, claim 1 recites, in part, “wherein in the case where the marker input unit accepts the marker input while the data recorded on the disk is being reproduced by the data reproduction unit, the marker number input unit accepts the marker number which is selected from the plurality of marker numbers displayed on the display device, and the information storage unit stores, in association with the selected marker number, information of the position of reproduction on the disk being reproduced at the time point of the marker input” and “wherein in the case where the marker input unit accepts the marker input while the data recorded on the disk is not being reproduced, the display device displays the plurality of marker numbers and disk position information associated with the plurality of marker numbers.” Claim 4 recites, in part, substantially similar limitations to that of claim 1 noted above.

Hamada discloses a method of recording an AV stream file and application database information, including motion picture information, on a recording medium. As such, Hamada facilitates the selection of data to be played back by adding, to recorded data, a thumbnail image representing that data when a recording medium, *e.g.*, an optical disk, is played back. *See* paragraphs [0078] and [0079] of Hamada. Wang discloses a video compact disc reproduction apparatus with a bookmark mode and a reproduction mode. In bookmark mode, a plurality of small scale images are recorded. In reproduction mode, a selected desired image is selected for playback from the site of the selected image. As such, Wang discloses that a plurality of small scale images corresponding to a plurality of sub-pictures in a memory are saved. *See* column 3, lines 52-54 of

Wang. Taken together, Hamada and Wang disclose that a thumbnail image is stored in a recording region of a recording medium and that a stored thumbnail image is selected to allow playback from a location corresponding to the selected image depicted in the thumbnail image.

In contrast, the claimed invention requires the registration of *currently displayed address information corresponding to the point in time when a marker key is operated* and does not require the registration of image data (such as a thumbnail image). Upon playback, the user selects a desired number, not a thumbnail image, displayed in a marker number display region for selection of a reproduction site and the user can directly select the target address. The thumbnail is dynamically generated from the previously stored address information. Advantageously, the claimed invention achieves a smaller footprint in memory because it only stores the address information at the time the marker key is operated during reproduction.

Accordingly, the claimed invention requires “in the case where the marker input unit accepts the marker input while the data recorded on the disk is being reproduced by the data reproduction unit, the marker number input unit accepts the marker number which is selected from the plurality of marker numbers displayed on the display device, and the information storage unit stores, in association with the selected marker number, information of the position of reproduction on the disk being reproduced at the time point of the marker input.” Hamada and Wang fail to show or suggest at least the above-noted limitations of the claimed invention.

In view of the above, independent claims 1 and 4 are patentable over Hamada and Wang, whether considered separately or in combination for at least the reasons set forth above.

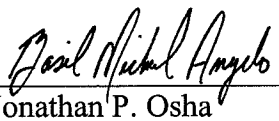
Dependent claims 2-3 and 5-7 are allowable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 04536/032001).

Dated: December 3, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

By  REG. # 62,811
for Jonathan P. Osha
Registration No.: 33,986
OSHA · LIANG LLP
909 Fannin Street, Suite 3500
Houston, Texas 77010
(713) 228-8600
(713) 228-8778 (Fax)
Attorney for Applicant